

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, lines 13-25 as follows:

B The program control apparatus in accordance with an aspect of the present invention controls program execution in a computer system in which threads are switched in accordance with a scheduling policy by a scheduler. The program control apparatus includes a first unit responsive to a predetermined first application program interface call from a thread for setting a prescribed flag to either one of first and second state; a second unit for setting, after the flag is set to one of the aforementioned states, the flag to the other one of the first and second states upon detection of a prescribed change in the state of the computer system;; and a third unit responsive to a second application program interface call paired with the first application interface call from the aforementioned thread, for returning a value indicating the state of the flag to the aforementioned thread.